

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed April 20, 2004 has been carefully considered. In response to the Office Action, Applicant has amended the application. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to consider the preceding Amendments and the following remarks, and then pass the application to allowance.

Pending Claims

Claims 1-16, 18, 19, 21-29 and 31-36 are currently pending. Claims 17, 20, 30, 37 and 38 have been cancelled by the present Amendment. Furthermore, claims 1, 4, 5, 7-13, 21-23, 25, 26, 28, 35, and 36 have been amended by the present Amendment.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1, 4, 6, 8-13, 17, 20, 25, 26, 28, 30 and 35-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the rejection states that there is insufficient antecedent basis for some of the claim limitations.

By the present Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 4, 8-13, 25, 26, 28 and 35 to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections and correct minor typographical and spelling errors. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection has been overcome by these Amendments.

In the Office Action, the rejection listed claim 6, lines 17 and 22-23, as containing limitations without proper antecedent basis. However, upon review of the

Application, it appears this rejection should have been directed to claim 7, line 17 and 22-23. As such, Applicant has amended claim 7 to overcome this rejection.

Subject Matter Indicated Allowable

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowability of claims 20 and 21, subject to their rewriting in independent form. Accordingly, claim 1 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 20 and intervening claim 17. Furthermore, independent claims 28 and 36 have been rewritten to include the allowable subject matter of claim 20.

Art Rejections

In the Office Action, claims 28, 31, 33 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yin et al., (U.S. Pat. No. 5,982,748). Claim 37 was rejected as being anticipated by Schoenblum et al., (U.S. Pat. No. 6,240,103). Claims 1-7, 10-18, 26 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Huang et al., (U.S. Pat. No. 6,052,384) in view of Mitra et al., (U.S. Pat. No. 6,331,986). Claims 8-9 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Huang and Mitra further in view of Odlyzko (U.S. Pat. No. 6,295,294). Claims 19 and 22-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Huang and Mitra further in view of Schoenblum. Claims 29-30 and 32 were rejected as being unpatentable over Yin in view of Mitra, while claim 34 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) by the combination of Yin and Schoenblum. Furthermore, claim

38 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schoenblum in view of Odlyzko.

As previously mentioned, the Office Action stated that claims 20 and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By the present Amendment, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 28 and 36 to include the subject matter indicated allowable. As such Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 28 and 36 are in condition for allowance. Furthermore, dependent claims 2-16, 18, 19, and 21-27 dependent upon claim 1 are in condition for allowance as being dependent upon an allowable base claim. Similarly, dependent claims 29 and 31-35 are in condition for allowance as being dependent upon allowable claim 28.

Conclusion

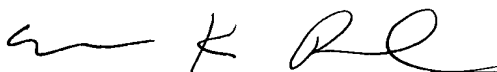
In view of the preceding discussion, Applicant respectfully urges that the claims of the present application define patentable subject matter and should be passed to allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone call would help advance prosecution of the present invention, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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